



# Direct Connect



## Leadership Summit Held in Baltimore

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**A**pril 7 was the start of the Survey and Certification Leadership Summit where State and CMS management convened at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Baltimore. On Monday, State agency representatives participated in a day with Malcolm Sparrow, while Regional managers held a separate meeting to talk about CMS issues.



*Steve Pelovitz and Leslie Norwalk, Acting Deputy Administrator.*

The agenda on Tuesday included a Survey and Certification Update, a presentation by Barbara Paul on the Nursing Home and Home Health Quality Initiative, and presentations on HIPAA and the Budget. Rick Harris, President of AHFSA and Carol Benner, former President of AHFSA led a discussion on choices that States have in influencing the survey process. At the end of the day, the Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies hosted a reception.

Wednesday's meeting began with a demonstration of the Tablet PC being considered for ESRD surveys. Other topics included Nursing Home Pro-

gram Update & Contracts, ICF/MR issues, state performance standards (including CLIA) and a breakout session to discuss nursing home and non-nursing home topics. A session on State's use of CMPs began the fourth day of the summit. A panel with the Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General and a representative from a State's attorney's office discussed roles of their organizations in assuring quality care to our Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Leslie Norwalk closed the summit and thanked everyone for the work they do on behalf of the Department. Leslie also presented Pam Vocke with a certificate of appreciation for her work in the training area. Rick Harris also gave Pam a token of AHFSA's appreciation for her work with the States.

After lunch, two presentations on data were delivered—one



# Life Safety Code

**C**MS published a final rule amending the fire safety standards for certain health care facilities on January 10, 2003. This final rule adopts the 2000 Edition of the Life Safety Code (LSC) and eliminates references in our regulations to all earlier editions of the code.

The rule amends safety standards for hospitals, long term care facilities, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, ambulatory surgery centers, hospices that provide inpatient services, religious nonmedical health care institutions, critical access hospitals, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly facilities.

The LSC is a compilation of fire safety requirements for new and existing buildings and is updated and published every three years by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a private, non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the loss of life due to fire. Medicare and Medicaid regulations have historically incorporated by reference the NFPA's LSC requirements.

These regulations were effective on March 11, 2003. Health care facilities referenced in this rule must comply with the requirements by September 11, 2003, except for the requirements related to the prohibition of roller latches and the use of battery-powered emergency lighting. The prohibition of roller latches and use of battery-powered emergency lighting allows a three-year phase in period.

Some of the major changes in the 2000 edition include mandatory quick response sprinklers for new buildings, and a performance based option. The performance based option allows the acceptance of a computer-generated performance design in lieu of meeting certain prescriptive requirements of the LSC.

The new rule continues to allow waivers to be granted on a case-by-case basis if specific provisions of the LSC would result in unreasonable hardship on the provider, and if the safety of patients would not be compromised. In addition, CMS may accept a state's fire and safety code instead of the LSC if the state's fire and safety code is imposed by state law and adequately protects patients.

By Jim Merrill

## GAO Report on Nursing Home Quality to be Released

On April 30th, the GAO conducted an Exit Conference with CMS on its report of the Nursing Home Quality Initiatives. This is the second follow-up report requested by Senators Bond and Grassley.

The report focuses on:

- What are the trends in nursing home quality;

- What were the State's responses to previously identified weaknesses; and
- What is the status of CMS oversight of States.

GAO staff expect to release the draft report to CMS on or about May 1st. CMS will have 30 days to make comments.



## DAVE Satellite

On June 20th a satellite on DAVE is scheduled from 1:00—3:00 pm eastern standard time.

The purpose of the satellite is to provide an introduction to the DAVE contract processes, share analysis, and provider tips for ensuring data accuracy.

The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session where participants can call or e-mail their questions.

## Survey and Certification Personnel News

**Julie Sadovich—San Francisco Regional Office**—CDR Julie Sadovich is a Nurse Officer in the US Public Health Service and is currently the Long Term Care Branch Manager in the San Francisco Regional Office.

Julie was assigned to the CMS San Francisco Regional Office in 1995. Prior to being assigned to CMS, Julie was assigned to the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center where she worked in several institutes and clinical areas including Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplant and Critical Care.

Since coming to CMS, Julie has worked the Division of Survey and Certification doing both survey and certification activities in both Long Term Care and Non Long Term Care Programs.

Julie has a Bachelors Degree in Nursing from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, a Masters Degree in Nursing from George Mason University in Fairfax,

Virginia, and recently graduated with a Doctorate Degree in Human Services from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Richard Shaw—Boston Regional Office**—Richard Shaw was appointed Chief and of the Certification Enforcement Branch in Boston in March. Previous to this appointment, Rick has been a surveyor in Region I since May of 1985. He was the first Developmental Disabilities Specialist hired in the region where he spent many years conducting surveys of Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with Mental Retardation. Prior to the implementation of the Nursing Home Reform Act, Rick began participating in federal surveys of nursing homes. Rick has primarily reviewed State Agency conduct of surveys, and accuracy of compliance decisions since the inception of the current survey process.

He has worked in collabora-

tion with CMS central office in many different projects including the development of Principles of Documentation, origination of the observation survey model, and the key components of abuse and neglect. He continues to serve as a member of the teaching staff of the ICF/MR Basic and Advanced CMS' courses. Rick also worked on a temporary assignment in Baltimore to develop the revision to the ICF/MR survey protocol for six months during 1995. This protocol is the only one mandated by CMS that requires surveyors to conduct observations and interviews prior to review of documentation. While the change met with initial resistance, providers and surveyors now perceive it as highly beneficial for its emphasis on client protection and services.

Rick holds a Master's of Education degree, and is a Licensed Certified Social Worker.



7500 Security Boulevard  
S2-12-25  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

**Survey & Cert  
Letters on the  
Web— [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)**

**Recent Survey & Certification  
Letters Related to Nursing  
Homes**

**S&C-03-18:** Physician delega-  
tion of tasks in Skilled Nursing  
Facilities (SNFs) and Nursing  
Facilities (NFs)

Web Address

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/  
medicaid/ltcsp/ltcmemos.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/ltcsp/ltcmemos.asp)

  
**Survey & Certification  
Group, CMSO**

# Bits and Pieces

**Calvin Cline** is now in San Francisco as Acting Regional Administrator for the next few months....**Molly Crawshaw** is Acting ARA in Dallas in Calvin's absence... welcome back to **Caroline Krewson** who is home from military deployment...**Pam Vocke** has announced plans to move with her family to Los Angeles, no date set for her departure...**Alan Curtis**, from the State survey agency in Ohio, is retiring....Full **ACTS** implementation will be delayed until June....**Dialysis** in nursing homes has been a

hot issue in the last few weeks...Mike Goldman requested that Regions collect information from the State on new ESRD training... **inventory of all Survey & Certification contracts** and expected RO and State Actions will be sent out shortly (requested by a State during the leadership summit)... **Feeding Assistant Regulation** expected to be published this summer....

## Highlights & Upcoming Events

April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Leadership Summit</b>—April 7-10th – Baltimore, MD</li> <li>■ <b>Basic Long Term Care</b>—April 28-May 2; Orlando, Florida</li> <li>■ <b>LTC Open Door Call</b> — April 29th—4-5 pm (est)</li> <li>■ <b>Region X—Regional Office/State Meeting</b> — April 30-May 1</li> <li>■ <b>Basic Course</b>—Orlando, FL — April 28-May 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>MDS 3.0 Town Hall Meeting/Satellite</b>—May 6, 2003</li> <li>■ <b>Region V—Regional Office/State Meeting</b> — May 21-22, 2003</li> <li>■ <b>Survey &amp; Certification Call</b>— May 14—2pm May 28 —2pm</li> <li>■ <b>LTC Open Door Call</b> — May 27th, 4-5 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>TEP for Independent IDR Pilot</b>—June 12, 2003</li> <li>■ <b>DAVE Satellite</b>—June 20 ; 1-3pm est.</li> </ul>